

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 3, 4, 8-19, and 23-54 are pending in the application. Claims 3, 4, 8-17, and 49 stand allowed. Claims 18 and 19 stand objected to, but would be allowed upon correction of an alleged informality. Claims 23-48 stand withdrawn pursuant to a requirement for restriction, but remain in the application. Claims 50-54 stand withdrawn by the Examiner as allegedly directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed.

In this paper, claims 23-48 and 50-54 are cancelled without prejudice. Claims 11 and 18 are amended to correct the alleged informality.

Applicants believe the amendments made herein add no new matter. Any amendment to the claims which has been made in this Amendment and Response, and which has not been specifically noted to overcome a rejection based on prior art, should be considered to have been made for a purpose unrelated to patentability, and no estoppel should be deemed to be attached thereto. Reconsideration and reexamination of the application is respectfully requested in view of the amendments and the following remarks.

Withdrawal of Claims 23-48 and 50-54

Claims 23-48 were previously withdrawn pursuant to a requirement for restriction. Claims 50-54 stand withdrawn by the Examiner as allegedly directed to an invention that is independent or distinct from the invention originally claimed. The withdrawal is traversed.

Claims 23-48 and 50-54 have been cancelled without prejudice. Thus, the application is in condition for allowance.

Objection to Claims 18 and 19

Claims 18 and 19 stand objected to as allegedly failing to include the term "said" in claim 18. The objection is traversed.

The Examiner asserts that the language in claim 18, line 3, reading “at least one of forces and stresses” should read “said at least one of stresses and forces.” Applicants understand the objection to require the addition of the term “said” to claim 18 to provide proper antecedent basis back to claims 11 and 49.

Claim 18 in its current form states “The exterior vehicle mirror system of claim 17, wherein a portion of the annular portion is integrally formed with the vertically-extending flange, whereby the vertically-extending flange is capable of transferring at least one of forces, stresses, and moments through the connection via the annular portion.” Claim 18 depends from claim 11, which in its current form states “The exterior vehicle mirror system of claim 10, wherein the L-shape of the first reinforcing element transfers at least one of forces, stresses, and moments within the vehicle mirror system from beneath the connection at the first end to the mounting portion adjacent to the second end thereof.” Thus, claim 11 provides the antecedent basis for the limitation “at least one of forces, stresses, and moments” in claim 18.

Claim 11 introduces the limitation addressed to moments. For clarification, Applicants have amended claim 11 to read “The exterior vehicle mirror system of claim 10, wherein the L-shape of the first reinforcing element transfers at least one of said forces, said stresses, and moments within the vehicle mirror system from beneath the connection at the first end to the mounting portion adjacent to the second end thereof.” Claim 18 is amended to read “The exterior vehicle mirror system of claim 17, wherein a portion of the annular portion is integrally formed with the vertically-extending flange, whereby the vertically-extending flange is capable of transferring at least one of said forces, said stresses, and said moments through the connection via the annular portion.” The amendments provide proper antecedent basis for claim 18.

The amendments to claims 11 and 18 remove the grounds for the objection. Claim 19 depends from claim 18. Thus, the grounds for the objection to claim 19 have also been removed. Applicants request withdrawal of the objection and the allowance of claims 18 and 19.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons discussed above, all claims remaining in the application are allowable over the prior art. Early notification of allowability is respectfully requested.

If there are any remaining issues which the Examiner believes may be resolved in an interview, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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